



Communicator

December 2012

Get Your Feet Wet

Page 4

Features

Worked All Europe Contest

Radio-Active

Fred Orsetti VE7IO

The ARES Coordinator

VE7IO Reports On His New Position

News

Plus

President's Report

December Calendar

SEPARS Report

RAC News

QRM

and More!



ve7sar.net

For The Birds—Part 2

Pass Prediction Software

See page 6

The Monthly Newsletter of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club



**SURREY
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

TELEPHONE & ADDRESS

(604) 591-1825
12144 - 57A Avenue
Surrey, BC V3X 2S3
va7xb @ separs.net

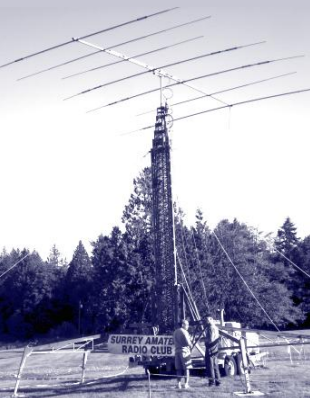
EDITOR
John Schouten
ve7ti @ separs.net

WEBMASTER
Hui Yee ve7yhg

VIA THE WEB
www.ve7sar.net

The **SARC Communicator** is published monthly for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

SARC maintains a website at www.ve7sar.net that includes club history, meetings, news and other information.



Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 14th Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 1900 hr by President John Brodie VA7XB. The membership was reminded that club fees are now overdue, and should be paid by the end of November so that insurance coverage in December can be renewed, supported by an accurate membership roster.

Financial Report

Treasurer Scott Hawrelak VE7HA, having just returned from an extended holiday, was not able to provide a financial report.

Membership

Director Bill Little VA7ZBL reported the number of members not in good standing for failure to pay dues. Discussion ensued concerning the timing and rationale for removing unpaid members from the roster, the President expressing his opinion that it be done in December or early

January. Another viewpoint expressed was that the Communicator should be circulated widely to members and non-members, as it serves to promote the club and its activities.

SEPARS

Director Kelvin Hall VA7KPH announced the Surrey Kids Conference to be held on Saturday, Nov 17th, at the Fleetwood Community Centre, with 3 half-hour workshops scheduled to simulate emergency communication using hand-held radios. Participation from SARC is invited. Kelvin also spoke about recent earthquakes and urged everyone to be prepared with emergency supplies for a future event.

Christmas Party

Jinty Reid VA7JMR reported on the Christmas Party scheduled for Dec. 15th between 11 am and 2 pm at the ABC Restaurant, 2160 King George

CLUB EXECUTIVE 2012-2013

PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

VICE PRESIDENT

Brett Garrett VE7GM

SECRETARY

Vacant

TREASURER

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

DIRECTORS

Kelvin Hall VA7KPH
(SEPARS)

John Schouten VE7TI
(Communicator Editor
& Net Manager)

George Merchant
VE7QH (Repeaters)

Bill Little VA7ZBL
(Membership)

Bill Gipps VE7XS

Rob Gilchrist VE7CZV

IN THIS ISSUE

[click on the links below](#)

Get Your Feet Wet
[Worked All Europe](#)

Radio-Active
[Fred Orsetti VE7IO](#)

Plus
[For The Birds](#)
[SEPAR Report](#)
[QRM](#)
[News You Can Lose](#)
[December SARC Calendar](#)
[President's Report](#)

	SEPARS Net	SARC Net
1 st Tuesday	Drew VA7DRW Jay VE7OFH Standby	Drew VA7DRW
2 nd Tuesday	Dixie VA7DIX Alan VA7BIT Standby	Jinty VA7JMR
3 rd Tuesday	Rob VE7CZV	Anton VE7SSD
4 th Tuesday	Peter VE7PGX Dixie VA7DIX Standby	John VA7XB
5 th Tuesday	Jinty VA7JMR	Bill VE7XS
Want a turn at Net Control? Contact the SARC Net Manager ve7ti @ separs.net		

SARC hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, (optional Tone Squelch 110.9) also accessible on IRLP node 1980 and Echo-link node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 Coming soon, a repeater at 224.000MHz (-1.6MHz).

Blvd. She reiterated that there will be door prizes, including a dual band hand-held radio, and that further donations are being sought from the membership and local vendors; request letters are available from either Jinty jinty.reid@gmail.com or John brodiejb@shaw.ca. The buffet dinner will also allow the option of vegetarians to select from the regular menu. John VA7XB said that he is still looking for nominations for achievement awards to be presented.

Operator Training Program

Brett Garrett VE7GM spoke about the "Get-Your-Feet-Wet" (GYFW), or introductory phase of the operator training program, stating that fifteen people (about 15% of our membership) have signed up for the GYFW program. A total of 27 trainees are in the combined GYFW and formal training programs. One person has already moved from the GYFW program to the formal training program with Jim VE7FO.

We have now held four GYFW sessions, two SSB and two RTTY, since September. We had six GYFW participants at the most recent SSB contest and five at the most recent RTTY contest.

Anyone interested in joining the GYFW group should contact John VA7XB or Brett VE7GM.

Jim described the status of the formal training program. Most participants are now able to run. Jim explained the difference between the Search & Pounce and Running mode of contest operation. Jim reported that in the recent RTTY contest, one person from the GYFW list had achieved a contact rate of 53 per hour. The next contest opportunity will likely be in late December.

January Meeting

John MacFarlane VE7AXU will be the featured speaker at SARC's January meeting, on the topic of digital modes using Ham Radio Deluxe and FLdigi software. The focus will be on beginning users and how to have fun with the digital modes.

Web Site

It was noted that the website, which was reported inaccessible on Nov 13th, is now up and running again.

Net

A request was made that volunteers willing to take on net control duties get in touch with one of the Executive.

New Business

George Cooley VA7GCD asked about making the membership roster available to members. Discussion followed regarding privacy issues, with one suggestion that a hard copy be provided to members, on request. A formal decision will be made at the Executive level.

Al Neufelt VE7CDC reported that he had several uninterruptable power supply (UPS) devices available (minus battery) if any members could make use of them.

Repeater

The question of interference from/to other users associated with nearby repeaters operating on the same frequency was discussed. The concept of "tone squelch" was explained by George Merchant VE7QH. Anyone experiencing this interference should set "tone squelch" on their radio to 110.9 Hz.

One member suggested that a tour of the repeater site be organized, with a show of hands confirming significant interest.

Presentation

George Merchant VE7QH gave an informative talk on the history of repeaters, the advantages and disadvantages of VHF/UHF versus HF, how the bands are organized, and SARC's repeater specifically. He stressed that these frequencies are used in a different way than HF, and should be considered one form of social networking. He encouraged more use of the repeater as a way of expanding our friendships and also, noted continual pressure to take away amateur frequencies for commercial use.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2100 hr.

DOWN THE LOG...

SARC Monthly Meetings

2nd Wednesday (Sept-Jun)
1900 hrs local at the Emergency Management BC PREOC,
14275 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0830 local
ABC Country Restaurant at
600 - 7380 King George Blvd.
Surrey

SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 hrs local
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

Announcements & News

SEPARS Monthly Workshop
Third Thursday, 1900-2130 local
Rm. 214, 13569 - 76th Avenue,
Surrey.

SEPARS Training

Fourth Saturday, 0830 local,
Firehall #1, 88 & 132nd Street,
Surrey

On the Web

ve7sar.net

Between newsletters, watch your e-mail for announcements of events, monthly meetings and training opportunities. These announcements Summer also be found on our web page.

Twitter

[@ve7sar](https://twitter.com/ve7sar)

Photos

[Web Albums](#)

John MacFarlane VE7AXU will be the featured speaker at SARC's January meeting, on the topic of digital modes using Ham Radio Deluxe and FLdigi software.

GET YOUR FEET WET

Worked All Europe RTTY Contest

~ John Brodie VA7XB

The weekend of Nov. 10/11 attracted some new participants for the introductory, or Get-Your-Fee-Wet, phase of the operator training program along, with a few of the more seasoned contesters who came out to help and learn more.

The occasion was the popular Worked-All-Europe RTTY contest, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur-Radio-Club. The rules were simple: make as contacts with as many participating stations as possible throughout the world. Each contact was worth 1 point, with multipliers for each different country, VE or W call area. The score was then multiplied by the number of countries worked on 80 m x four, on 40 m x three, and 20-15-10 x two. VA7XB was our host station, operating as a multi-op, single radio with low power. The only antenna available was a SteppIR vertical, as wire antennas for the low bands were not yet erected. Mentoring of newbies fell to Brett VE7GM and John VA7XB, whereas Jim VE7FO supervised those who were familiar with the routine and were hoping to enhance their skills. As usual, the N1MM logging software and its companion MMTTY for RTTY were used. Propagation was not the best, but a few interesting

worldwide contacts were made under challenging conditions.

The day started with a few contacts into Europe, moving on to the Caribbean, South America, the South Pacific and Asia as the day progressed. All the newbies were able to quickly master the routine for tuning in RTTY signals, following the exchange, identifying the calling station, and consummating the contact by hitting the macros at the exact moment while operating in "search-and-pounce" mode. A few of the beginners progressed so quickly that they were able to "run", i.e. call CQ and respond to stations answering, occasionally resulting in pile-ups after our station was spotted. It appears that this contest alone has produced for the more advanced program several new recruits who will be ready to participate aggressively in future contests. We can all be thankful to Jim VE7FO and Fred VE7IO for their guidance and inspiration and to Brett VE7GM for expanding the program to the beginners and for working with them.

Everyone involved agreed that the reward of seeing new operators' enthusiasm for mastering new skills makes all the effort worthwhile.

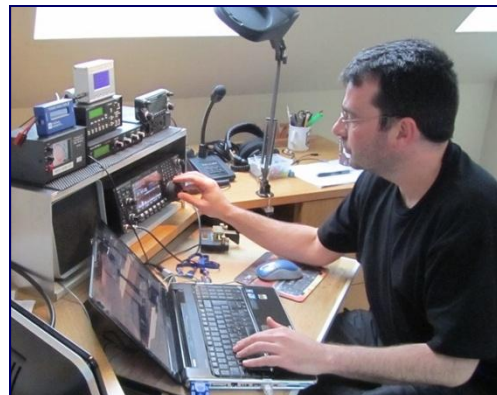
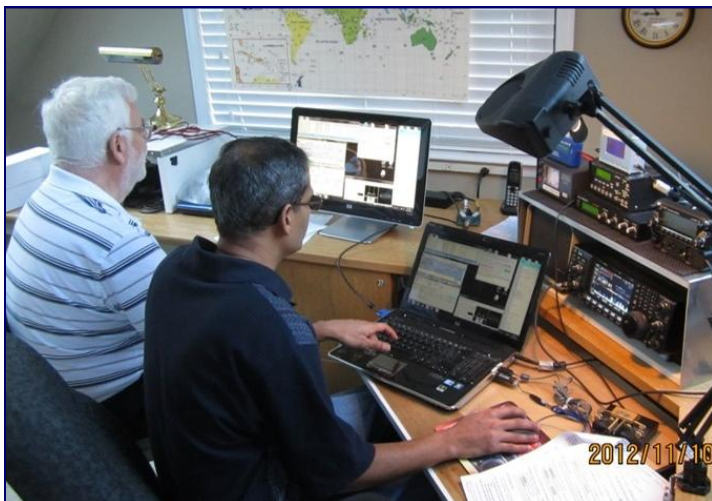
Cover photo: Jinty VA7JMR high-fiving after completing a contact with VK4IU (Australia)

Photo above left: Keenan VE7XEN feeling smug after his CQ was answered by YB1AR (Indonesia)

Photo bottom left: Kapila VA7KGK making contacts into Japan, Russia and the Caribbean

Photo above: Ron VE7VTA multi-tasking by operating the computer and radio while patting Toby

Photo right: Peter VE7PGX, getting familiar with the radio and software in his first RTTY contest.





The ARES Coordinator

Fred Orsetti VE7IO

By now most active radio amateurs, who are members of RAC or check into one or all of the BC HF nets, know that I have agreed to take the position of ARES Emergency Coordinator for BC. Most all are also aware that over the past 2 years I have been withdrawing my volunteer time from local amateur activities so why would anyone in their right mind accept such a time consuming position as ARES Coordinator while trying to reduce time away from home. I'm still wondering that myself!

Over the past 15 years I have held the positions of ARES Emergency Coordinator, BC Section Manager and SEPAR Coordinator all of which taught me a great deal about emergency communications needs in BC. As well as learning from my experiences serving in these positions offered me the opportunity to give something back to a hobby which has provided me with so much enjoyment and satisfaction. As well, my volunteer time allowed me to promote amateur radio's ability to serve the community.

When RAC BC Section Manager Paul Giffin, VA7MPG, asked me if I had any ARES records from the past I did a search of my archives and sure enough I still had my data base of registered BC ARES members. At this point I should have been smart enough to hand over the data and stand aside but no I agreed to meet with Paul and other members of EMBC to discuss an ARES structure in BC, big mistake on my part as I became interested, again. OK Paul, I said, I will take on the organizational role provided that I am not required to attend meetings and spend time away from home. In other words if I can do this job from home I will take it on. He agreed and so here I am.

Often times the emergency service aspect of amateur radio is used to promote many projects from funding for repeaters to public service events. Officials of government and members of the general public easily identify with the need for communications during emergencies and disasters. When amateur radio is offered and understood it is quickly realized that what we do is vital during any failure of the usual commercial communications systems. Past events such as hurricane Katrina make it easy for amateur radio representatives to show how our services can be of significant importance. In most of these situations the importance of amateur radio is centered on helping the public stay in touch and helping to provide communications for government

agencies. ARES fulfills the role of helping provide communications for the public and that seems to be what is needed here in BC.

Over the next year I hope to establish contact with as many amateur radio emergency organizations and clubs in BC as possible in order to update ARES data that I currently have. I plan to focus on training particularly in the area of radio room station management. It is my belief that every organization that offers an amateur radio emergency communications service to their clients should be able to do so in a professional way and this means well trained volunteers that begins with effective and efficient station management.

I check into the BCYTN, BCEN and the BC Public Service nets regularly and do net control for BCYTN on Monday's. For now the HF nets are the primary connection between the public, the rest of North America and amateur radio. If you have HF capability try to make time to check into one of our well run emergency HF nets I am sure you will find it very rewarding.

*Fred Orsetti VE7IO
BC ARES Coordinator*

Section Affiliated Club Coordinator

I am very pleased to announce that Karla Wakefield VA7KJW, has accepted the position of Affiliated Club Coordinator for the BC Yukon Section. She will commence her duties immediately. Karla is currently the President of the Burnaby Amateur Radio Club.

The Affiliated Club Coordinator is the liaison with club presidents around the section and provides a conduit to the Section Council. RAC continues to try and provide avenues for members to express their concerns to Section Field Organization and RAC HQ personnel and this is another avenue. For RAC to be successful it must be driven by the membership. We are continually looking for member input to move RAC forward.

Kara may be contacted at va7kjlw@rac

*Paul Giffen VA7MPG
Section Manager BC/YU*





For The Birds

John Schouten VE7TI

Part 2: Satellite Pass Prediction Software

Last month we looked at starting with Amateur Radio satellites. To track the sats we need a computer device, either a smart-phone, tablet or computer. The satellites and the International Space Station orbit the earth at regular intervals, depending on the height of their orbit, known as the apogee and low point, the perigee. They do not orbit the same track each time, instead covering portions of the globe during succeeding passes. Depending on the height at the time of the pass, the satellite footprint can cover a tremendous amount of ground area, allowing Amateurs to use the repeater function to speak with stations within the footprint. Passes may be calculated easily through software. First though, let's look at some of the terms used:

Grid Square: Grid squares are a shorthand means to determine your location for the prediction programs and describing your general location anywhere on the Earth in a manner that is easy to communicate over the air.

An instrument of the *Maidenhead Locator System* (named after the town outside London where it was first conceived by a meeting of European VHF managers in 1980), a grid square measures 1° latitude by 2° longitude and measures approximately 70 × 100 miles. A grid square is indicated by two letters (the *field*) and two numbers (the *square*), as in CN89

Each subsquare is designated by the addition of two letters after the grid square, as CN89of. These more precise locators are used as part of the exchange. They measure 2.5 minutes latitude by 5 minutes longitude, roughly corresponding to 3 × 4 miles in North America.

This [calculator](#) by David K2DSL will show your grid square on a map.

Date (UTC)	AOS (UTC)	Duration	AOS Azimuth	Maximum Elevation	Max El Azimuth	LOS Azimuth	LOS (UTC)
28 Nov	11:42:18	00:18:10	28	16	81	140	12:00:28
28 Nov	13:34:37	00:22:21	19	69	100	192	13:56:58

AOS: Acquisition of Signal is the time that the satellite could first be contacted at your grid square.

Duration: The time period during which the satellite is accessible at your grid square.

AOS Azimuth: The angle in degrees clockwise from North at your grid square where the satellite will appear.

Maximum: The highest point the satellite will reach at your grid square in degrees above the horizon.

Maximum Elevation Azimuth: The angle in degrees, clockwise from North, where the satellite will reach maximum elevation at your grid square.

LOS Azimuth: The angle in degrees clockwise from North at your grid square where the satellite will disappear.

LOS: Loss of Signal is the time that the satellite signal will be lost as it disappears over the horizon.

Keplarian Elements: Keplerian elements or 'Keps' are the inputs to a standard mathematical model of spacecraft orbits. With the "keps", the correct time, and your station location, you can compute when the satellite will be in view and where to point your antennas. This link is a [tutorial on Keplerian elements](#) and the [explanation of the formats](#) used in these files. Most programs update Keps automatically or prompt you to do so.

Let's look at some popular free programs. Probably the simplest is to access pass prediction software directly via the Internet. The disadvantage though is that you must have an active Internet connection.

The AMSAT site is an excellent start
<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/>

Here we see a satellite track depicted on a map. We have entered our grid square (see the red dot) and the satellite will be passing close enough to establish contact.



Another excellent Internet site is [n2yo.com](#). Here are additional tools and an easy interface, not only for Amateur Radio sats but a number of others. N2YO also provides background data on the satellites, launch dates and 5 days of predictions.

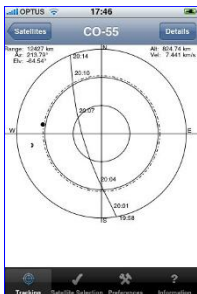


J-Track is a NASA site that provides live data and maps in 2D or 3D at URL:

science.nasa.gov/realtime/jtrack/3d/JTrack3D.html this site also provides a complete list of satellites and pass prediction.

My favourite is Heavens-Above at URL www.heavens-above.com. It has a vast array of features and excellent graphics though it is not as intuitive as N2YO.

Free Software for iPad and iPhone

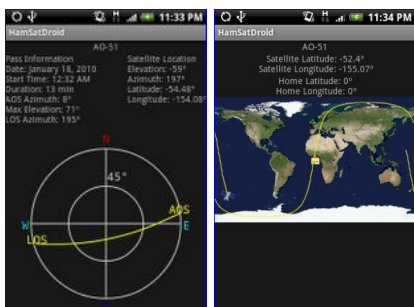


There are several paid and unpaid apps available for iOS devices. My personal preference is Satellite Tracker by MacCon.

This application allows you to select any number of satellites and will show the track through the sky of the next pass(es) of each over your location. Frequency

information can be added so you know how to tune into the signals. The satellite information can be downloaded via the internet ahead of time so a live connection is not required. The iPhone GPS can be used to automatically track your location. This app allows the angle of the iPhone/iPod Touch to indicate to guide where to point your antenna. In the picture above it shows the track of the satellite overhead. There are several more apps however all are paid.

Free Software for Android Devices

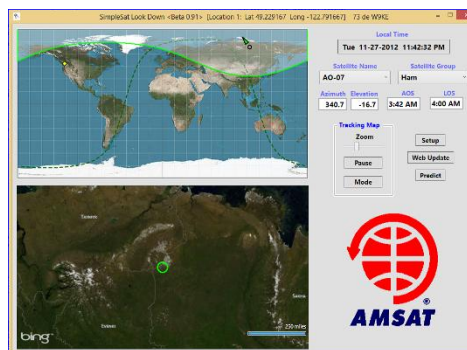


Very much like Satellite Tracker above, HamSatDroid has a vast database of satellites and good graphics to display passes. Two other free Android apps worth trying are SatTrack and Satellite 3D

Free Software for Windows PCs

This is truly the motherlode. There are many programs to choose from so I'll review my top three.

Simple Sat Lookdown is a free program from W9KE. It is still in Beta but, in keeping with its name, it is the simplest to use. It's written specifically for hams so the features are geared to pass prediction and contacts. The only negative is that it does not list frequencies so you'll have to look elsewhere for that information.

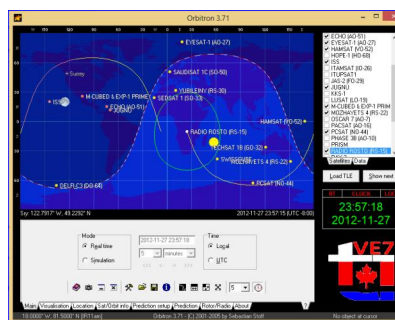


It updates live views using Google maps and using this feature I've seen the ISS pass right over my location. This one also shows the satellite footprint [see below] so you

can see immediately if you're within the satellite coverage area and the region where you can potentially make a contact.



Orbitron is software from www.stoff.pl currently at version 3.71 though it has not been updated in 7 years. It is very feature-rich, providing up-to-date satellite data, maps, frequencies and tracks.



It runs fine on all versions of Windows, including Windows 8 and can be run from a USB stick or memory card which makes it very portable.

HRD Satellite Tracking

Rounding out my top three for Windows is a component of Ham Radio Deluxe known as HRD Satellite Tracking. HRD has recently gone commercial—for years it was freeware but the free version is still available at hrdsoftwarellc.com. You may already be familiar with HRD for remote radio control using your computer and that feature is carried over to the Satellite Tracker. It will change the VFO on a compatible radio as the satellite approaches and passes overhead to LOS.

You can see a video of a satellite QSO using this software at URL: www.youtube.com/watch?v=5jUZZwA6EB0.

Hopefully this has provided you with a few options and a desire to give satellite tracking a try... at least on the computer, if not actually out there with your radio.





Radio-Active Jinty Reid VA7JMR

Fred Orsetti VE7IO

Fred was born in Vancouver, one of two children, the other one being his sister. He tells me he has reached the ripe old age of 76. He attended UBC for one year but the war years brought financial hardship for many, forcing Fred to go back to work therefore he was not able to complete his studies. Fred worked in the pressroom of The Province Newspaper and after the merger in 1957 he worked for Pacific Press as a printer. He married his childhood sweetheart, Marion, in 1957. They had 2 sons, one who lives in Langley and one in South Surrey, and now has 8 grandchildren. After marriage Fred and his family lived in Richmond for a while before moving to Pasadena, California where they lived for 2 years. It was there through a fellow worker Fred developed an interest in ham radio. In 1963 the family moved to their present home in South Surrey which originally was on 7 acres. On this property they had horses and chickens. Later they sold 5½ acres of the property.

Fred got his Ham License in 1975 with the call sign of VE7CJG. He chuckles on remembering a fellow ham friend called John McPhearson who, around the same time, got the call sign of VE7BOO on Halloween. Fred began building his radio shack in his basement with a Heathkit HW101 transceiver and a Viking Ranger CW transmitter and a Hallicrafters SX115 being his early equipment. For those who have visited Fred's shack you have seen that he has added several times to have his present set up. He also has a 2 tower SteppIR Antenna with 1 tri-band beam.

From 1980 to 1994 Fred became inactive in ham radio because of his increasing responsibility as Director of Production for Pacific Press and his management role. His wife Marion returned to university and became a teacher and then received her Masters in learning disabilities. In 1994 Fred retired and his wife followed suit in 1995. The couple travelled to such places as Australia and England as well as travelling around USA and becoming Arizona 'snow birds'. They travelled for 12 years. Fred states that he had a ham radio in his RV, surprise, surprise! Fred became the emergency Coordinator for BC under RAC and then the Section Manager for BC/Yukon for 5 years. He

stepped out of all this for a while. Then he was approached by SEPAR and asked to take over the Coordinator's position. Fred states that he has a lot of people to thank who have assisted him in building up SEPAR. Kelvin Hall is presently the Coordinator but Fred is on the Executive.



Fred loves working DX and contesting and has lots of certificates for this on the wall of his shack. He went to London, England in 1982 with a group of fellow hams and operated from the old BC House near Piccadilly. In 2013 Fred is planning his 15th trip to the Dayton, Ohio Hamvention where he will meet up with 30,000 other operators from around the world.....bliss!

Increasingly, Fred finds that these days he has to "step back" due to family pressures and the fact that he freely admits, "I am getting older". One of the things that Fred likes most about being a ham is the opportunity to meet people of various backgrounds and describes this as the highlight of his radio life. He enjoys seeing people succeed in developing their radio skills. Fred is a patient man always ready with kind and encouraging words for new hams. His dream is to go on a DX expedition to a foreign country. One of the things that can be difficult for some hams is balancing their ham radio involvement with their family life. To this Fred stated he has never put radio in front of his family which helps him keep his priorities straight. Fred is always willing to open up his radio shack to others in developing their contesting skills. Thank you Fred for all you have done and all you are doing for amateur radio.



Stealth Antennas Norm Schmidt VE7IIT

I was recently at the Guildford Public Library and my attention was drawn to a paperback publication on display as a recent acquisition, "Low Profile Amateur Radio", an ARRL publication describing "...operating a ham station from almost anywhere...". The book opens with remarks regarding being a ham operator attempting to get on the air in a neighbourhood where there are restrictive covenants regarding having visible ham antennas on one's property.

Being an American publication, the author (Al Brogdon, W1AB) refers at some length about being in what is referred to as a "CC&R", (the abbreviation for Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions") often found during the purchase of a residence, or a move into a rented condo or apartment. Here on the north side of the 49th parallel, they are known as just "Restrictive Covenants" and they are often found on the agreement that one ends up signing when moving to a new QTH. With the fast growth of association-governed communities over the past few decades, the advice given by the author is one of stealth, and the book goes on to illustrate various methods of hiding ham antennas from curious neighbours and landlords.

concept to hiding the antenna in the attic area of the residence or to a picnic table that was modified to hide an outdoor antenna.

The book contains several appendices with reprints from the QST Magazine with examples of the indoor and outdoor antennas described in the text. The one application of the concept on hiding one's antenna is the well-known antenna-hiding-as-a-flagpole and this writes will not repeat the famed story of getting rid of the annoying local dog by firing up his transmitter while the poor canine was relieving itself at the base of the antenna.

The book is a relatively new acquisition to the library and should undoubtedly find acceptance to those in the ham fraternity. It would be a valuable asset to any ham's library.

The March 2013 meeting is scheduled to have a presentation on Low Profile also known as 'Stealth' antennas -Ed



The author gives several chapters on feed lines to deliver the RF signal to the basic antenna designs, and includes several illustrated examples of hiding the actual antennas, every



Yes, it's an antenna

**The Directors of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club
extend wishes for a Happy Holiday Season
and a Prosperous, Healthy New Year!**



News Former "How's DX?" Conductor Rod Newkirk W9BRD (SK)

Rod Newkirk, W9BRD/VA3ZBB, of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada who penned the QST column "How's DX?" from 1947-1978 passed away on Monday, November 19 after a long illness. Newkirk was credited with coining the term "Elmer," as well as for his humorous take on DX in his column, especially with limericks in his DX Hoggery and Poetry Depreciation Society and the accompanying cartoons of Jeeves by Phil "Gil" Gildersleeve, W1CJD (SK).

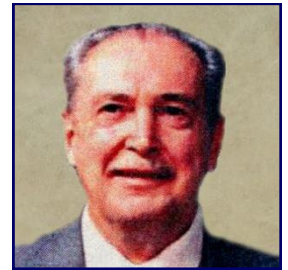
In March 1991, QST Associate Editor Jim Cain, K1TN, profiled Newkirk in "How's Rod?" in the pages of QST. "Newkirk wrote 'How's DX?' through the Korean War, through the Fabulous '50s, the Vietnam war, incentive licensing and the W9WNV DXpedition controversy," Cain wrote. "While six American presidents moved in and out of the White House, 'How's DX?' documented the rise of SSB in Amateur Radio and DXing, saw the birth of DX lists and nets and the growing number of 2 meter spotting groups."

The term "Elmer" meaning someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams first appeared in QST in Newkirk's March 1971 "How's DX?" column, where he wrote that "too frequently one hears a sad story in this little nutshell: 'Oh, I almost got a ticket, too, but Elmer, W9XYZ, moved away and I kind of lost interest.' Sure, the guy could have burned through on his own, maybe, but he, like others, wound up an almost-ham. No more Elmer. We need those Elmers. All the Elmers, including the ham who took the most time and trouble to give you a push toward your license, are the birds who keep this great game young and fresh." Newkirk was probably not trying to coin a term at the time, but the name stuck, becoming a general term for the mentors Newkirk called "the unsung fathers of ham radio."

Beginning in May 1951 (and appearing each May after that), Newkirk wrote about the annual meeting of the DX Hoggery and Poetry Depreciation Society. The DXHPDS featured such notables as Noyes E. Tester, Loda Watts, Harry Uppensign, Lotta Chassis and Hal R. Lauder as well as limericks that skewered deserving lids:

Splashy-voiced Boomboom MacSwine
When told that his gain's out of line,
Is prompt to reply,
If '8' is too high
Then why is it numbered to '9'? (May 1970)

First licensed in 1937 as W9BRD at 14, Newkirk was involved with radio all his life. After graduating from high school, he became a civilian radio operator in Washington, DC with station WAR; when World War II broke out, he joined the US Army as a member of the



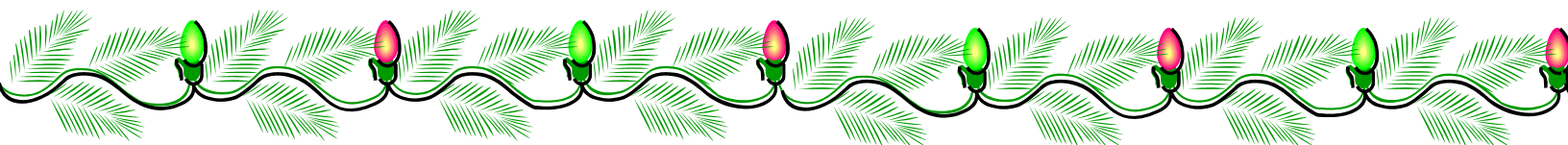
Army Signal Corps where he served in Florida, Papua-New Guinea and the Philippines. He remembered these times in his first QST article, "Christmas, 1944," which recounted a "heart-warming yarn involving the combination of the Amateur and the Christmas Spirit in far-off Hollandia."

After a stint as a radio operator with the Illinois State Police, Newkirk moved to Connecticut in 1947 where he worked at ARRL Headquarters as a W1AW Station Operator with a new call sign, W1VMW.

It was while Newkirk was in Newington that then-ARRL Communications Manager Ed Handy, W1BDI, asked Newkirk to take over the "How's DX?" from Byron Goodman, W1JPE. A few years later, Newkirk returned to his home state of Illinois to go to college. While in Illinois, he regained his W9BRD call sign and resumed his job with the Illinois State Police. He continued to write "How's DX?" from Illinois. Newkirk's last "How's DX?" column was published in February 1978. Newkirk retired from the State Police in 1986. In 1984, he was inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame as its 23rd member, and in 2002, he was the 87th inductee into the CQ Hall of Fame.

Newkirk was a former member of the ARRL and a member of the Radio Amateurs of Canada, the Ottawa Valley Mobile Radio Club, FISTS, the Morse Telegraph Club and the Quarter Century Wireless Association and QCWA Chapter 70. In May 2007, he was presented with the QCWA "70 Years Licensed" Golden Certificate and lapel pin, and in May 2010, with the QCWA Century Certificate.

In 1997, Newkirk married Betty, VE3ZBB, and moved to Canada, where he got the matching Canadian call sign VA3ZBB.



News: British Columbia QSO Party

The BC QSO Party takes place on February 2, 2013, 8am to 8pm local time (1600z Feb 2 to 0400z Feb 3). The contest objectives are:

- Stations outside British Columbia, make as many contacts as you can with VE7/VA7 stations.
- British Columbia stations, make as many contacts as you can with other stations in the province as well as the rest of Canada, into the United States and beyond.

Original-photo certificates awarded for top scores in all classes, BC and outside BC.

The BCQP is fully supported by [N1MM contest logging software](#) and [CQ/X GPS-enabled software](#) for mobile contesting. See the [rules](#) for contest exchange, tools and updates. Other details, including rules, exchange and multipliers, can be accessed from the BCQP homepage on the Orca DXCC website. Visit URL: <http://orcadxccc.org/bcqp.html>

If anyone is interested in how the 2012 event played out and hasn't read the report, it's here at URL: http://www.orcadxccc.org/content/bcqp_2012_report.pdf

As you know, BCQP 2012 was the first under Orca DXCC sponsorship and was, by all accounts, a tremendous success. The most encouraging indicator of progress, to me, was the huge increase in VE7/VA7s on the air -- tripling year-on year, to more than 120 -- as well as more electoral districts activated, 26 of 36. With more BC

operators on the air and a deeper reservoir of multipliers to tap, along with a QSO boost from same-day QSO party activity in the US, the time flew by. It was a great day in front of the radio.

If the 120+ operators who took to the mic, key and/or keyboard in 2012 can encourage even just one radio pal to get involved in BCQP 2013, what an incredible party it will be.

We all know that contesting is not for everyone, and even among testers, QSO parties are often overlooked as not competitive enough. But the casual and friendly atmosphere of the BCQP presents merits for tester and non-tester alike. If anyone pooh-poohs the idea, remind them that...

- The slower pace allows newcomers to ease into the world of contesting and try out strategies without irritating operators who are only interested in a high score. Great practice for Field Day or a RAC contest.
- It's a chance to practice different modes without the pressure of an impatient pileup and to acquire familiarity with new logging software or remote operations.
- It's an excellent opportunity to hone operating and Elmering skills. Whether amateur radio is used for emergency purposes, for rag-chewing or for radiosport, it will not survive if we don't practice our skills and share our knowledge.

In addition to the fun factor and the learning/elmering opportunities, the BCQP offers tangible rewards: one-of-a-kind certificates -- different design every year -- and cool Orca trinkets for top scores. Plaques may be awarded for particularly awesome results, such as a new record, most electoral districts contacted, or best score in BC/outside BC/US/DX, if appropriate in a given year.

I hope members of the SARC will join us again. Another whale of a good time awaits.

~ Rebecca VA7BEC
Contest Coordinator for BCQP, Orca DXCC



News

Morse Telegraph Club members play a key role in Spielberg's Lincoln



LINCOLN

Members of the Morse Telegraph Club, an association of retired railroad and commercial telegraphers, historians, radio amateurs and others with an interest in the history and traditions of telegraphy and the telegraph industry played an important role in the production of "Lincoln."

According to James Wades (WB8SIW), International President of the Morse Telegraph Club, several members provided period telegraph instruments for use in the construction of the War Department Set. Most notably, Tom Perera (W1TP), Derek Cohn (WB0TUA), Kevin Saville (N7JKD), and Roger Reinke provided sufficient telegraph instruments to equip the sixteen operating positions portrayed at the War Department.

Jim Wilson (K4BAV) and his son, Matt Wilson had minor roles as Extras. Jim also worked with production staff and the actors to explain telegraph technology and the role of the telegrapher.

Jim Wades (WB8SIW) who was employed as a Technical Advisor for the production, worked with set designers over a period of months to develop the War Department telegraph scenes. Mr. Wades coordinated the process of procuring the necessary instruments and served as a historical consultant as the telegraph scenes were developed.

Nine of the sixteen telegraph positions depicted in the War Department were fully operational. These instruments could be operated in any combination through the use of a specialized computer program and terminal units custom built by Mr. Wades for the process. When necessary, a hand key could be inserted in the individual telegraph loops so messages could be improvised.

Mr. Wades worked with the producers to develop historically appropriate message traffic that fit the sequence of the script. However, as the movie was edited, the final product evolved into a more generic facsimile of Morse traffic. However, those with a background in land line telegraphy will hear the occasional snippet of message traffic in the audio track of the movie.

"We are very pleased that Mr. Spielberg and his staff took the time to treat the telegraph with dignity and respect," said Mr. Wades. "It is a pleasure to be associated with a high quality motion picture that can genuinely be classified as not just entertainment, but as a work of art," he added.

The Morse Telegraph Club was founded in 1943 to perpetuate the knowledge, history and traditions of telegraphy. Chapters are located throughout the United States and Canada. Members are actively involved in a variety of projects including presenting talks on the history of telegraphy to historical societies, schools, and Amateur Radio organizations. Chapters throughout the US and Canada have worked with public museums to build historically correct telegraph exhibits. Members also regularly demonstrate telegraphy at historical events throughout North America.

Complete coverage of the making of the telegraph scenes in "Lincoln" will be published in an upcoming issue of "Dots and Dashes," the official journal of the Morse Telegraph Club.

For more information or interviews, please contact:

International President,
Morse Telegraph Club, Inc.
269-650-0215

jameswades@gmail.com

<http://www.morsetelegraphclub.org/>

See the theatrical trailer at URL:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWpMt2-Z-fc>

CQ... CQ... CQ

Bill Little VA7ZBL is tuning up his CW skills over the winter and is looking for a paddle at reasonable cost.

If you have or know of one that is available at a fair price, please contact Bill via mojocrew@telus.net

Wanted

Rob VE7CZV needs an auto-tuner for his HF rig, specifically on 80m.

If you have or know of one that is available at a good price, please contact Rob via robgil@telus.net

News You Can Lose The Lighter Side



A Ham's Night Before Christmas

'Twas the night before Christmas,
And all through two-meters,
Not a signal was keying up,
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up,
From the tower, quite high,
To catch the weak signals,
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,
Took their HT's to bed,
And dreamed of the day,
They'd be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,
I plugged in the key,
And we tuned 40 meters,
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged,
By a signal with power,
It smoked a small diode, and,
I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,
And with all she could muster,
Logged a spot of the signal,
On the DX Packet Cluster,

While I ran to the window,
And peered up at the sky,
To see what could generate,
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,
But the moon made it gleam -
A flying sleigh,
With an eight element beam,

And a little old driver,
Who looked slightly mean,
So I thought for a moment,
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,
The Santa of Hams,
On a mission, this Christmas,
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,
Then stopped in his track,
And he slid down the coax,
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid,
Behind stacks of CQ,
This Santa of hamming,
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk,
Of paper and parts,
And filled out all my late,
QSLs for a start.

He ran copper braid,
Took a steel rod and pounded,
It into the earth,
Till the station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,
Resoldered connections,
Cranked down modulation,
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes,
In my linear amp...
(Never worked right before,
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter,
Cleaned up the TV.

He corrected the settings
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer,
That would not compute,
And he backed up the hard drive,
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep,
In the bag that he brought,
And he pulled out a big box,
"A new rig?" I thought!

"A new Kenwood? An Icom?,
A Yaesu, for me?
(If he thought I'd been bad,
It might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate station!
How could I deserve this?
Could it be all those hours,
That I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up,
And in record time, quickly,
Worked 100 countries,
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,
It was my call he sent,
But the cards and the postage,
Will cost two month's rent!

He made final adjustments,
And left a card by the key:
"To Gary, from Santa Claus,
Seventy-Three."

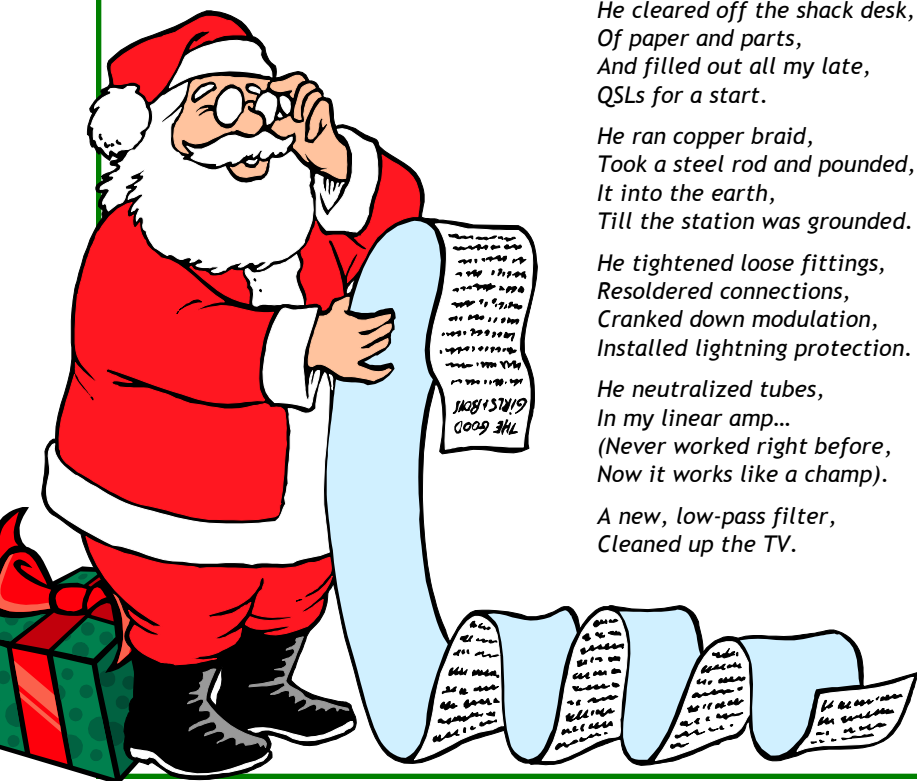
Then he grabbed his HT,
Looked me straight in the eye,
Punched a code on the pad,
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,
And the pile up was big,
But a card from St. Nick,
Would be worth my new rig.

Oh, too late, for his final,
Came over the air.,
It was copied all over,
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham's Santa exclaimed,
What a ham might expect,
"Merry Christmas to all,
And to all, good DX."

~ Bill Chapman, AA6JZ





SEPAR Report Kelvin Hall VA7KPH



SEPAR and the Surrey Kid's Conference

SEPAR participated in the Surrey Kid's Conference (SKC) on November 17th at the Fleetwood Community Centre. Ten SEPAR members were in attendance to deliver three workshops to a total of 79 kids.

The workshop was a simulation exercise of a local power and communications failure. Half of the kids were the 'family in distress' and the other half were the 'EOC radio operators'. The three groups of five in one room and three groups of five in the other room, using the radios on three different UHF frequencies, were managed very well by the SEPAR members in their exchange of "We need help" to "Help is on the way". This was carried out three times over the course of the afternoon with the ages of the groups varying from four to thirteen years. The kids seemed to enjoy this new experience and were excited to tell their parents.

SEPAR delivers this type of workshop to our youth approximately four times per year to inform them of ham radio and the use of ham radio in disaster events. We also stress that ham radio can also be a very fulfilling hobby.

Emergency Preparations

Are you prepared to look after yourself and your family for an extended period of time? If there is a major emergency event, earthquake, flood, tsunami or one of the other 57 events how long will you be able to survive. Look at the US east coast and the New York area and the length of time it is taking for some areas to receive assistance.

A supply of water, 2 litres/person/day, food that does not require refrigeration, flash lights and batteries, warm clothes and blankets, pet food, medications, small amount of cash (\$100 in coin) and a family contact plan will be a good first step.

Charge your ham radio batteries and tune in to 146.550 MHz or 147.360 MHz +600 offset, tone of 110.9 to stay in communication with other local hams. Note that in the event of an emergency traffic on these frequencies may be restricted to Emergency Traffic only. You can still monitor but may be requested not to transmit unless it is an emergency.

Changes to the Tuesday Evening Net

The SEPAR Tuesday night Net script has been modified to reflect the BC/Yukon and EMBC PREOC format used for emergency information gathering. This format is formal and scripted in order to gather the greatest amount of information in the shortest period of time for emergency communication purposes. Unlike a club net, this net does not engage in conversations between ham radio operators, rather it is used for Emergency and Formal traffic messaging handling and identifying emergency operator contacts in specific areas.

The new SEPAR script is located on the SEPAR web site at separ.shutterfly.com

To ensure that all SEPAR members have the same information we will be using the NTS Handbook available on the BC/Yukon net website. The document can be downloaded from www.members.shaw.ca/brasskey/NTS%20HANDBOOK.pdf.

As SEPAR is an organization dedicated to emergency communications and traffic handling the net control will accept emergency and formal traffic at any time during the net.

SEPAR Meetings

Third Thursday of each month starting at 1900 hrs

Fourth Saturday of each month starting at 0900 hrs

Location and event schedule can be found at separ.shutterfly.com – click on the calendar tab

December 15th SARC Christmas Dinner

Last chance to sign-up (Before December 7)

Contact Jinty jinty.reid@gmail.com

Our next regular monthly meeting is on
January 16, 2013

Please join us at the Emergency Management BC
PREOC located at 14275 96th Avenue, Surrey



QRM ...from the Editor's shack

*Do you have a photo or bit of club news to share?
Something to sell or something you are looking for?
Email it to ve7ti@separ.net for inclusion in this column.*

Marlon Brando's Shack

As you may already know, Marlon Brando was FO5GJ while in Tahiti, and he was on the air under the name of Martin Brandeaux.



His private island will be a luxury resort in 2013. So its a perfect moment to remember how it looked in the 80s.

How's Your Decryption Skills?



A secret message, dating back to the Second World War, and still attached to a carrier pigeon, was found in a church belfry in England. If you can decode it, many experts who have failed, they will be very pleased with your achievement. Check it at the URL:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/shortcuts/2012/nov/23/crack-pigeon-second-world-war-code?INTCMP=SRCH>

End Of The World

A Special Event Station celebrating 'The End of the world'! That's right! The end is near [again]. According to one of the three Mayan Calendars, the end of the world will occur on December 21, 2012, so don't buy any green bananas after the 17th. To celebrate this, literally, once in a lifetime event, Special Event Station NOD (Now Zero Days) will be activated for three days during and... possibly after the end of the world.

Amateur radio stations around the crumbling globe are invited to contact NOD, who will be operating from a secret undisclosed location. QSL with SASE to the address in QRZ. If Doomsday actually does happen, we regret that a QSL will not be possible so hold on to your SASE until the 22nd at least.

You can celebrate Doomsday by contacting NOD directly on the air. Amateurs can also become an official Doomsday station by registering on our website. You will be given a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as an Official Doomsday Station, followed by your Doomsday number.

Mark your calendars:

- December 20 is a celebration of the end of the world— Party Hearty!
- December 21, the day of destruction, and we'll be on the air as long as possible.
- As for December 22... that's a little iffy right now.

For further information click on the URL:

<http://www.nowzerodays.com/index.html>

Union Pacific Special Event Station

On December 1st 2012, the Union Pacific Railway is celebrating their 150th Anniversary with a special event station. Not much time left... for full info go to URL:

<http://www.pocatelloarc.org/uprr/>

Lesotho Calling...

SARC's Bill Gipps VE7XS/VE7ISV is on a DXpedition in Lesotho, Africa. He has an interesting blog about his adventure at URL: <http://www.ve7isv.com/blog.htm>





RAC News Radio Amateurs of Canada

Bob Nash VE3KZ appointed to Hall of Fame

The Board of Trustees of the Canadian Amateur Radio Hall of Fame is pleased to appoint Robert Nash VE3KZ of Milton, ON to the Hall of Fame. Bob will be presented with this award at a meeting to be arranged in Toronto in early 2013, at which time a more detailed summary of his contributions to amateur radio will be published in The Canadian Amateur magazine.

Nominations for the Hall of Fame must be submitted by Sept. 30th annually. The appointment is to recognize an amateur for outstanding achievement for sustained service to amateur radio in Canada, or amateur radio at large. The Board of Trustees consists of an amateur radio representative from each province of Canada.

Radio Amateurs of Canada congratulates Bob Nash on this award.

Bill Unger, VE3XT Ontario North/East Director Acclaimed

Congratulations are extended to Mr. Bill Unger, VE3XT who was recently acclaimed as the RAC Director for Ontario North East. Mr. Unger ran unopposed, eliminating the need for a balloted election. His term as Director will be for two years starting January 1, 2013 and ending on December 31, 2014.

Mr. Unger has been an amateur operator since 1970 and has been involved in many aspects of the hobby.

G Linda Friars, VE9GLF - Radio Amateurs of Canada Insurance Program Administrator - Acting Corporate Secretary

EmCor R2 in Honduras

The President of Honduras, Mr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa, inaugurated the Regional Center II of the Permanent Commission of Contingencies, (COPECO) on Thursday, November 22, 2012. This is one of the five new regional and logistic centers of COPECO and is equipped with a seismological and a meteorological station.

In another center, COPECO has a meteorological radar capable of regional coverage that includes other countries of the zone, like Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. The Commissioned Minister of COPECO, Lisandro Rosales, stated to Dr. Cesar Pío Santos, HR2P, IARU Region 2 Emergency Coordinator, his recognition of the important role of radio amateurs, especially when conventional communications collapse in cases of disasters. Also present at the event was the President Pro Tempore of the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC) and General Director of the National Civilian

Protection System of Panama (SINAPROC), Mr. Arturo Alvarado de Icaza, who also mentioned the good relationship existing in his country with the radio amateurs.

Dr. Cesar Pío Santos congratulated him on the openness of the Panamanian government towards the radio amateurs by allowing the adhesion of that country to the IARP convention (International Amateur Radio Permit), which can be of great help in disaster situations.

<http://www.iaru-r2.org/wp-content/uploads/presidente-honduras-500x401.jpg>

B.C. Section News - Via Bill Foster, VE7WWW

The following appointments have been made to RAC Field Services in the BC/YU section.

- Section Emergency Coordinator for BC: Fred Orsetti VE7IO
- Official Observer Coordinator: Dennis Wight VE7IJJ
- Section Affiliated Club Coordinator: Karla Wakefield VA7KJW
- IRLP/EchoLink Weather Net - Via James (Jim) Langille, VE1JBL

New Weather Net

There is a fairly new net on Saturday nights called the Weather Radio Listeners Newsletter Net. Hosted by Gordon Maybee, VA3WXA out of Toronto, it begins at 8pm Atlantic, 4pm Pacific on IRLP Reflector 9034. If you have a computer, Echolink node 223557. It has information about Weather Radio and CANWARN, and will also include weather warnings and power outages across Canada. We are trying to make this a Cross Canada Net and include all provinces and Territories. We are looking for a station from Québec to participate as we do not have any stations there yet.

We are looking for interested stations to take part. If you have a weather station, you can report your observations at your QTH, or if you have any local severe weather going on, you can report on that.

For more information about the net, go to The Maritime Amateur website <http://www.maritimeamateur.ca/> and click on CANWARN. Once there, click on CANWARN news where you will find articles on this net. Here is the direct link:

<http://www.freewebs.com/ve1jbl/canwarnnews.htm>

Any questions, please let me know. Hope to hear you on the net.

~ James (Jim) Langille VE1JBL

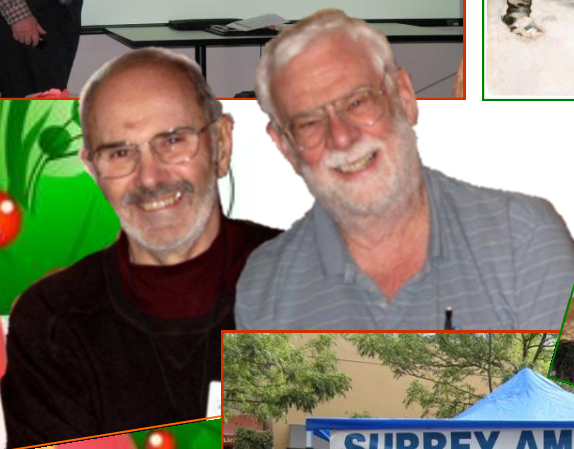
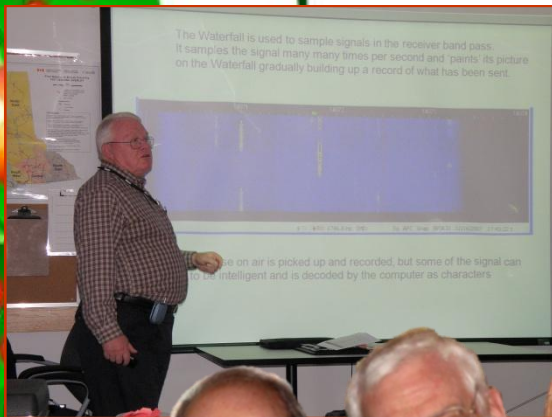
The SARC Calendar ...places to be in Surrey for Amateur Radio in the month ahead

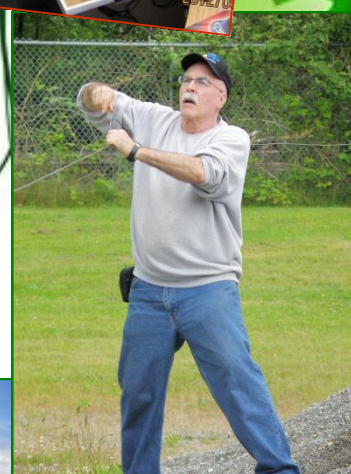
December 2012						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 	26 For details on all SARC events, go to ve7sar.net For details on all SEPARS events, go to separs.net	27	28	29	30 Weekly SARC Breakfast 8:30 ABC Restaurant 74th & King George Blvd.	1 CONTEST: TARA RTTY Melee
2	3	4 SEPAR NET 7:30 SARC NET 8:00	5	6	7 Weekly SARC Breakfast 8:30	8 CONTEST: ARRL 10m SSB
9 CONTEST: ARRL 10m SSB	10	11 SEPAR NET 7:30 SARC NET 8:00	12 No SARC Monthly Meeting	13	14 Weekly SARC Breakfast 8:30	15 SARC Christmas Party 
16	17	18 SEPAR NET 7:30 SARC NET 8:00	19 SARC Exec Meeting Deferred	20	21 Weekly SARC Breakfast 8:30	22
23	24	25 Christmas Day 	26 Boxing Day 	27	28	29 RAC Winter Contest
30	31	1 	2	3	4	5

Contest Details: <http://hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>



SARC Year in Pictures

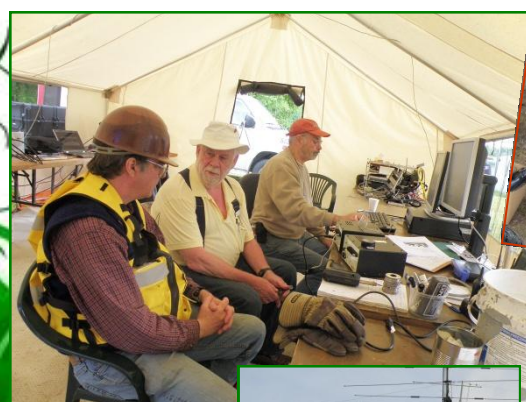
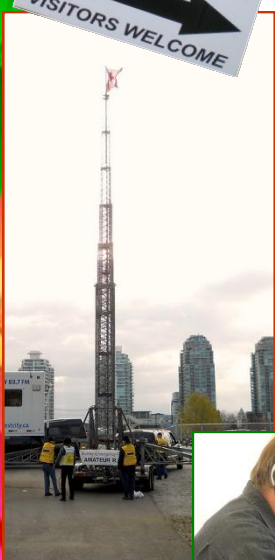




SARC Year in Pictures



**AMATEUR RADIO
FIELD DAY**
VISITORS WELCOME





QRT John Brodie VA7XB



You may ask “why should I renew my membership?” A good question but one that is easily answered. Aside from the camaraderie with others in Surrey who share your enthusiasm for ham radio, SARC offers a variety of fun and proficiency-enhancing activities that will make your hobby more enjoyable and productive. In addition to the regular program which includes our annual Christmas party, Foxhunt and Field Day, you will have the opportunity as a member to enjoy the benefits of *the Communicator*, without any doubt one of the best club newsletters available anywhere. You will also be eligible to join the Operator Training program or its counterpart for beginners, designed to enhance your skills via formal instruction and the exciting world of contesting. Further, our meeting program for the coming year has some great speakers lined up. Whatever facet of the hobby most attracts you, there is likely something for you in the months to come:

- January - an introduction to the digital modes - especially for beginners - how to get started, popular modes and software options available
- February - a slide-illustrated Alaska DXpedition talk, followed by an in-house swap meet - bring stuff you no longer need and sell or exchange it for new stuff
- March - a tutorial on shortened and “stealth” antennas for the real-estate challenged ham
- April - an introduction to HF propagation prediction using free software
- May - preparations for Field Day and how you can do your part to increase our 2013 FD score by another 50%
- June - our AGM and final countdown to Field Day

If we can work in a talk sometime during the Spring by Bill Gipps VE7XS on his Lesotho, Africa DXpedition, we will do so. Also scheduled for one or more Saturdays will be a guided tour of SARC's new repeater installation located on the roof of a 36-story hi-rise.

Membership fees are \$30 per year with a \$5 discount if you are a RAC member. A family membership is \$40 per year. However, we don't wish to lose you as a member because you cannot afford it. If you have not renewed for reason of financial hardship, please contact me confidentially (va7xb@rac.ca) and we will find a way to make it work.

VE7LSY Improves 2012 Field Day Standing to #2 in Canada, #1 in BC

Despite a late start in planning for Field Day this year, the team went all out during May and June and the result was a successful event with a much improved score. Past years have usually put us in #3 spot in Canada and #2 spot in British Columbia. This year we achieved #2 in Canada and #1 in BC - a significant improvement of which we can be proud.

Let's compare the numbers: In 2011, we made 779 contacts for a score of 3720. In 2012, the number of contacts increased to 1227 for a score of 5536. These numbers represent an improvement of 57% in QSOs and 49% in score.

It is no mystery why this happened...we had the benefit of some expert coaching in the previous months by Jim VE7FO and Fred VE7IO and - yes - a few top notch operators. As a result, we were able to achieve our goal of a 50% improvement over 2011. We did not get all the bonus points available and there were a few other areas requiring improvement, as described in previous Communicators, but to gain every possible point will be the challenge for 2013.

It is tough to beat an eastern team, as they have the population density working for them. Nevertheless through the combination of thorough planning, top notch equipment, well-trained operators, and a smart tactical strategy it is possible that we could gain another 50% improvement. This should be our goal for 2013.

I would be remiss in not mentioning a few of the other major contributors to this achievement - Al Munnik VA7MP and Dave Easingwood VE7DPE of LARA, Brett Garrett VE7GM and John Schouten VE7TI of SARC/SEPAR and Dan Barnscher of Surrey Fire Services who made it possible to have such a great site.

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power	Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	VE3HB	6,442	3A	1,540	2			ON	17	Oakville ARC
2	VE7LSY	5,536	3A	1,227	2			BC	30	SEPAR / LARA / SARC
3	VE7SCC	4,418	3A	1,229	2			BC	40	Coquitlam/Burnaby/New West ARCs
4	VE3RB	3,018	3A	1,010	2		VE3KRG	ON	20	Peterborough ARC
5	VE3TNC	2,860	3A	601	2		VE3BGD	ON	25	Toronto ARC
6	VE2CRO	2,634	3A	892	2			QC	45	
7	VE4BB	2,292	3A	523	2			MB	87	Winnipeg ARC
8	VE9ND	2,286	3A	445	2			MAR	22	
9	VE5NN	1,732	3A	386	2			SK	29	Regina ARA
10	VA3CTA	1,564	3A	333	2		VE3FVU	ON	35	Central Toronto ARC
11	VE2CSP	1,408	3A	207	2		VE2ER	QC	20	ARA de Portneuf
12	VE3AIR	1,102	3A	226	2			ON	4	Manotick ARG

[Editor's Note: We would be remiss in not recognizing John Brodie for his role in this success. John has provided tremendous leadership and dedication, not to mention many hours spent getting us to this level]

Top 12 Field Day 2012 Standings For Category 3A